

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 03492 062326Z

70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 NSC-10 SS-15 L-03 EB-11 SCEM-02

INT-08 RSR-01 /101 W

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P 062245Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5112

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3492

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI ETRN ECON

SUBJ: ESSO SALE OF GAS TO STRIKING TRUCKERS

1. IN MY INITIAL PROTOCOL CALL ON INCOMING MINISTER OF MINES PEDRO FELIPE RAMIREZ (THE SEVENTH MINISTER OF MINES SINCE I ARRIVED IN CHILE A YEAR AND TEN MONTHS AGO), THE MINISTER "UNOFFICIALLY" DESCRIBED AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED A FEW DAYS AGO INVOLVING ESSO. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, ESSO SOLD APPROXIMATELY 10,000 LITERS OF GASOLINE TO VILARIN'S STRIKING TRUCKERS. THE MINISTER SAID THIS SALE WAS REGARDED BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WITH PARTICULAR GRAVITY BECAUSE THE TRUCKERS' STRIKE IS OBVIOUSLY POLITICALLY - NOT ECONOMICALLY - MOTIVATED AND BECAUSE THE STRIKING TRUCKERS PROBABLY ARE USING THE GAS TO TRANSPORT THEMSELVES TO THE SCENE OF ILLEGAL AND VIOLENT ACTS, SUCH AS BLOWING UP THE OIL PIPELINE BETWEEN SANTIAGO AND VALPARAISO (SANTIAGO 3426). RAMIREZ SAID ESSO REPRESENTATIVES HAD JUST CALLED ON HIM (I MET THEM LEAVING AS I ARRIVED IN THE MINISTER'S OFFICE), AND HAD GIVEN HIM ASSURANCES THAT ESSO'S ACTION WAS INADVERTENT AND DUE TO A MIX-UP IN INSTRUCTIONS RATHER THAN ANY INTENT TO DEFY CHILEAN GOVERNMENT GASOLINE CONTROL REGULATIONS. RAMIREZ TOLD ME HE HAD FELT OBLIGED TO SEND A TELEGRAM DESCRIBING THE INCIDENT TO EXXON CORP. IN THE U.S., ADVISE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (WHICH MIGHT APPROACH ME), AND REPORT THE MATTER TO PRESIDENT ALLENDE. ACCORDING TO RAMIREZ, PRESIDENT ALLENDE REGARDED THE MATTER SERIOUSLY.

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2. IN ANSWER, I TOLD RAMIREZ THAT ESSO REPRESENTATIVES

(COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR PEDRO DRAGICEVIC, AND ONE OTHER CHILEAN)
HAD EXPLAINED THE INCIDENT TO ME AS I WAS ENTERING HIS OFFICE
AND HAD TOLD ME - AS THEY HAD RAMIREZ - THAT MEASURES HAD
BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT A REPETITION. RAMIREZ APPEARED SOMEWHAT
MOLLIFIED, AND ASSURED ME THAT HE WAS NOT REQUESTING ANY FURTHER
ACTION ON THE PART OF THE USG. (ACTUALLY, ESSO VICE PRESIDENT
SWINDERMAN TELLS US THERE IS NO LEGAL OR REGULATORY IMPEDIMENT
TO ESSO SELLING GASOLINE TO PURCHASERS WHO REQUEST SERVICE AT
THE DEPOT.)
DAVIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GASOLINE, SUBSIDIARIES, ILLEGAL STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DAVIS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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